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GREG VITALI, MEMBER
1001 EAST DARBY ROAD
HAVERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 19083
PHONE: (810) 789-3900
FAX: (215) 560-4197

MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202166
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2166
PHONE: (717) 787-7647
FAX: (717) 705-2089
E-MAIL: greg@gregvitali.com
HOMEPAGE: www.gregvitali.com



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
JUDICIARY
POLICY
STATE GOVERNMENT

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AND CONSERVATION

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DEC - 2 2009

November 24, 2009

Environmental Quality Board
P. O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

RE: PROPOSED RULEMAKING on 25 PA. CODE CH. 102: Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management

To Whom It May Concern:

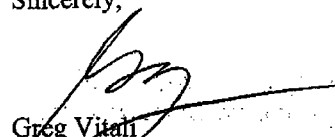
I am writing to voice my concern regarding the permit-by-rule program proposed in light of the permits revoked for two gas drilling companies. The permit applications completed by the licensed professionals were found to have technical deficiencies after the permits were issued by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The problems with the permits were only found after an appeal by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF).

I have come to understand that the revoked permits had no analysis of the rate or volume of stormwater runoff from the construction or post-construction stages. This runoff resulting from earth disturbances for pipeline construction could pollute streams in the area. With increased interest and activity in oil and gas drilling throughout the state, I hope that we can work together to ensure that the environment and our natural resources are not sacrificed in the process.

While the DEP requires 150 foot buffers on developments alongside Exceptional Value (EV) streams, I hope that the DEP will also investigate the proposal to require at least 100 feet for any earth disturbing activity alongside any stream. I believe that this is still fewer feet than is required in New Jersey.

I thank the Environmental Quality Board for the opportunity to submit my comments.

Sincerely,


Greg Vitali
State Representative
166th Legislative District

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